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Marine Corps Air Station Miramar

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Safety stand-down sends powerful message

By Cpl. Mark P. Ledesma

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron was introduced to a different approach to safety during the holidays. A hypnotist entertained service members in a safety stand-down at the station theater, Nov. 20.

"Our goal is to change up the routine of the safety stand-down so Marines will stay interested and focused on the topics and issues we are providing them," said Gunnery Sgt. David Ward, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Safety Specialist.

Hypnotist, Master Sgt. Bryan A. McDaniel, Marine Air Control Squadron 1 maintenance chief, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, has done about 50 safety stand-downs for individual units throughout his career.

"Master Sgt. McDaniel did a great job to bring forward a powerful message at the end when he hypnotized one of the volunteers to think that he killed three of his fellow Marines while driving under the influence of alcohol," said Ward.

"I think this type of stand-down is very effective. A lot of times Marines go to safety stand-downs, not relating to what the speaker is saying," said McDaniel. "Marines think that the subject doesn't pertain to them. If the speaker is talking about Marines drinking and driving, some think that the speaker is talking about other Marines."

"In a presentation like this, Marines not only get to participate and have fun," said McDaniel. "At the end they see that it could be one of them killed in an automobile accident. It puts a personal edge on the subject when I ask Marines if they have any brothers or sisters. It takes them away from being a nameless, faceless, green suit and transforms them into a person with a family."

"Anytime we can have fun while presenting safety, everyone benefits," said Ward. "Spicing up presentations helps to spur interest and hold the audience's attention."



Marines assist each other after being hypnotized. These Marines were hypnotized to think they were drunk. Four of the Marines then were involved in a simulated drunken-driving incident. The audience and Marines got a first-hand opportunity to see how quickly a person loses good judgment when they are drinking alcohol. The hypnotist was at the COMCABWEST safety stand-down Nov. 20 at the station theater. Photo by Sgt. Carolyn S. Sittig

Marines arrive in Afghanistan

By Sgt. 1st Class Kathleen T. Rhem

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld announced Nov. 26 that Marine forces are in southern Afghanistan to set up a forward operating base.

"They are not an occupying force," Rumsfeld told Pentagon reporters. "Their purpose is to establish a forward base of operations to help pressure the Taliban forces in Afghanistan (and) to prevent Taliban and Al Qaeda terrorists from moving freely about the country."

Roughly 500 Marines moved into an airstrip southwest of Kandahar over the weekend, Department of Defense spokeswoman Victoria Clarke said earlier in the day. That number should rise to more than 1,000 within the next couple days, she said. The Marines are from the USS Peleliu and USS Bataan. Other Marines will arrive at the airfield by C-130.

The secretary wouldn't say specifically what the operating base would be used for. "We don't discuss future plans or developments," Rumsfeld said. He said the area has

strategic importance because it is near major crossroads and east-west routes into Iran and Pakistan.

Joint Chiefs Chairman Air Force Gen. Richard Myers said the operation to position the Marines "has gone well so far."

He noted that U.S. efforts in the country "remain focused on providing support to opposition groups throughout Afghanistan and on establishing airfield hubs for humanitarian assistance efforts."

Myers said Northern Alliance troops entered the city of Kunduz as Taliban groups surrendered. He said isolated pockets of foreign fighters continue to be active in the area. Rumsfeld added he is not surprised the foreign fighters are holding out. "The Al Qaeda and the non-Afghan troops ... have been among the toughest of the fighters and the most determined and the least likely to surrender," he said. "(They) would have the least ability to melt into the countryside."

The chairman said 110 U.S. aircraft struck in nine planned target areas concen-



Family Gathering

Lieutenant Col. Donald W. Zautcke, Marine Wing Support Squadron 373 commanding officer, speaks to his squadron on the importance of togetherness amongst the squadron during the holiday season at MWSS-373's Thanksgiving breakfast. The Marines gathered Nov. 21 in the chow hall before the holiday to celebrate with each other. Photo by Sgt. Mike Camacho

Honoring sacrifices

Colors ceremony celebrates selflessness, Veterans Day

By Sgt. Carolyn S. Sittig

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

A colors ceremony was held at 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing headquarters commemorating Veterans Day and selflessness Nov. 21.

"Every month during the 3rd MAW colors ceremony a different theme is celebrated in conjunction

with a holiday or national observance that represents Marine Corps values," said Capt. Carolyn D. Bird, 3rd MAW commanding general's aide.

Major General Charles F. Bolden

Jr., commanding general, 3rd MAW, defined selfless-service as "forgetting yourself and allowing yourself to relax and do things outside of your job."

Throughout history there have been numerous accounts of service members who have put others before themselves and risked life and limb to protect the nation. Veterans Day became a holiday Nov. 11, 1954 to ensure sacrifices of Americans in all wars were honored. One example of this selflessness is a recent addition to 3rd MAW.

Sergeant Major John Estrada, incoming 3rd MAW sergeant major, was selected as a Marine who best exemplified selfless-service.

Estrada came from Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C. where he served as the Recruit Training Regiment sergeant major. His position required selflessness and sacrifices, said Bird. As RTR sergeant major, Estrada was in charge of all the battalion sergeants major and advisor to the RTR

commanding officer.

One way Estrada showed selflessness was by putting his drill instructors before him by offering an open door policy to all Marines. "Every Marine regardless of rank knew they could come in and see me or call me. Many Marines took advantage of that policy," said Estrada.

"The sacrifices and selflessness that our veterans have made before us have assured the survival and success of liberty that we enjoy today, just as those of us standing here have dedicated ourselves to that same cause."

Maj. Gen. Charles F. Bolden Jr.
3rd MAW commanding general

"I did whatever I could within my authority to ensure the best facilities and support, so they (drill instructors) could do their job," said Estrada.

Estrada hopes to transfer his open door policy to 3rd MAW once he takes over reins as 3rd MAW sergeant major. "I want the Marines of 3rd MAW to feel comfortable to be able to communicate with me about issues they may have. They are some of the hardest working Marines and I want to give them the best support, so they can do their jobs."

It is Estrada's example and many before him that show how service members have put others before their own comfort and needs. "The sacrifices and selflessness that our veterans have made before us have assured the survival and success of liberty that we enjoy today, just as those of us standing here have dedicated ourselves to that same cause," said Bolden.

Besides offering his time, he also strove to improve quality of life for the drill instructors and put their interests first.



Colors are raised at the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing headquarters Nov. 21 in celebration of Veterans Day and selfless-service. The 3rd MAW colors ceremony features a theme that reflects a holiday or national observance as well as a reflection of Marine Corps values every month. Photo by Sgt. Carolyn S. Sittig

One for road could lead to cemetery

By Cpl. C.A. Eriksen

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

During the past two years, 326 Marines and Sailors lost their lives in privately owned vehicle crashes, according to the Naval Safety Center's Web site. The tragic reality is that approximately 42 percent of those fatalities could have been prevented by the use of a small but simple device — a seatbelt.

Last year the 3rd Marine Air Wing and Marine Corps Air Station Miramar lost no Marines or Sailors in POV related fatalities. So far this year, 3rd MAW has lost four Marines in POV related fatalities and Station has lost none, according to Gunnery Sgt. David Ward, safety specialist, Headquarters and Headquarters Support squadron, and Robert Helie, ground safety manager, 3rd MAW.

In a recent instance, there were four occupants in the vehicle and the one fatality resulted from a passenger being thrown from the vehicle because they did not properly use their seat belts, according to Helie.

"He only used the one part of a two part seatbelt system," said Helie. "He slipped out of it and was thrown from the vehicle while the others in the car only suffered minor injuries."

Alcohol and speed are the two most common factors in fatal POV accidents. However, seat belts do make a difference, according to the Naval Safety Center's Web site.

"Just like dealing with alcohol; think before you drive, or ride, and arrive alive," said Ward. "Buckle up. It's the right thing to do and it's an order and the law."

"Third Marine Air Wing had 19 POV rollover accidents reported during last fiscal year from November through February and none resulted in fatalities because all were wearing seat belts," said Helie.

Other contributing factors to POV fatalities are nighttime and weekend driving. More people are on the roads during the weekend. Driving at night presents its own unique challenges as well as fatigue, according to Ward.

Statistics show that buckling up nearly doubles the chances of surviving a POV accident, according to the Naval Safety Center's Web site. The safest place to be in a POV accident is properly seat-belted inside the vehicle, according to Helie.

"Fifty percent of the Marines 3rd MAW lost so far this fiscal year died because they failed to use seat belts properly," said Helie.

A seemingly harmless short drive to the store can turn deadly. According to the National Safety Council, most

accidents occur within five miles of where people work or live. This can be prevented by the simple use of a seat belt.

"Most accidents happen when people make that short trip to the store right around the corner, they don't think they need a seatbelt for that short of a trip," said Helie.

Being aware of the surroundings and actions of others also helps to prevent fatal POV accidents. Safety is about being aware of the surroundings and taking the appropriate actions to control the factors that can be controlled, according to Helie.

"You don't always have control of your surroundings but you have to take control of what you can," said Helie. "Be aware not only of yourself but also of your surroundings and others around you and don't take anyone for granted."

The Marine Corps would have lost one less Marine had those around him been aware and made him properly wear his seatbelt. The other Marines should have taken the responsibility to ensure that Marine did the right thing, according to Helie.

"Don't be afraid to tell someone to put their seatbelt on — it just might save their life," said Helie.

Miramar Marines invade NBC airways, The Tonight Show

By 1st Lt. Neil A. Ruggiero

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

BURBANK – Sixty-five San Diego area Marines were sitting in the audience as Jay Leno dedicated The Tonight Show, Thanksgiving edition, to American service members.

The show was broadcast live to service members throughout the world, including Navy ships stationed in the Arabian Sea.

Audience, primarily Marines and sister service members, were treated to a night of laughter, heartwarming “thank yous” and of course, inter-service banter.

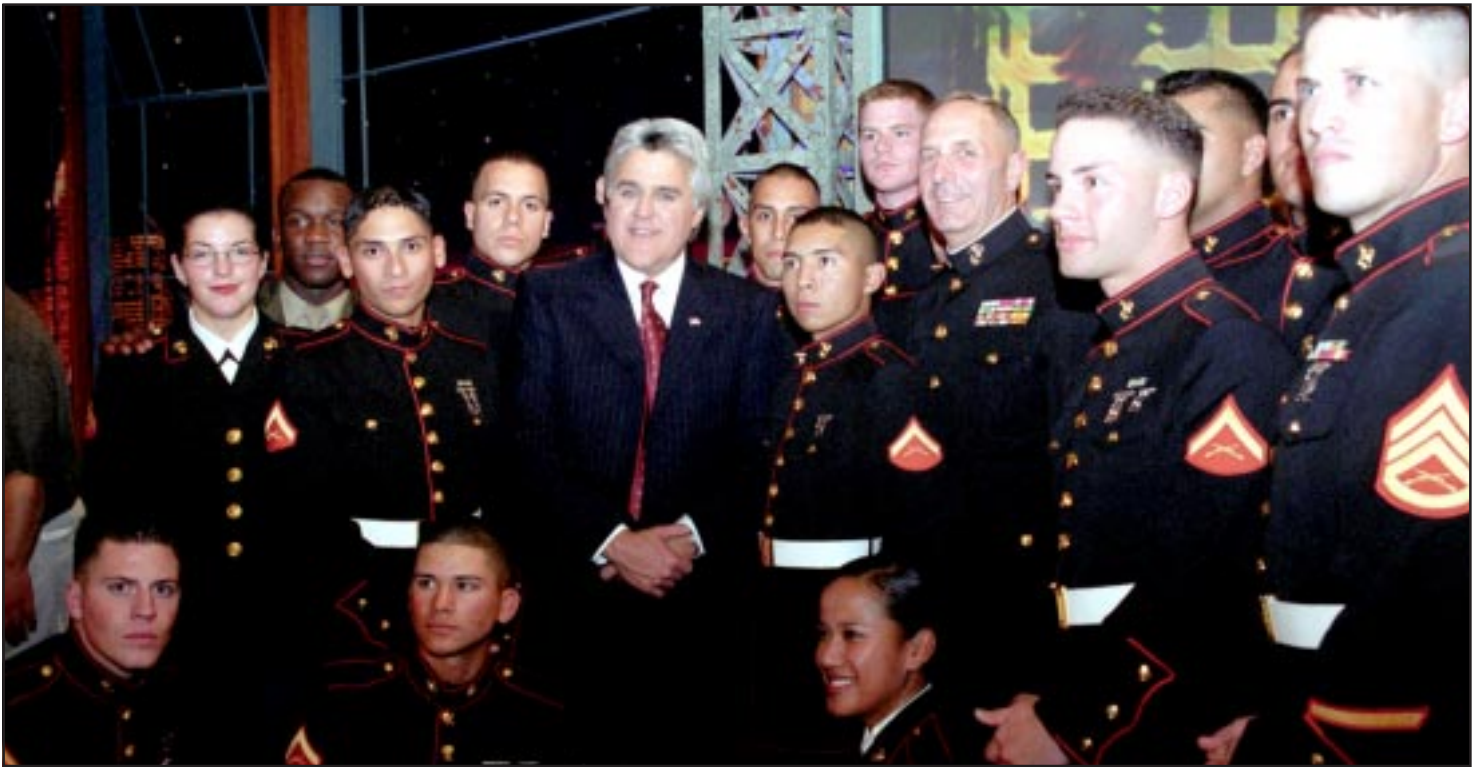
The show began with a series of heart-felt messages from celebrities such as Brad Pitt, Adam Sandler, Jennifer Lopez and First Lady Laura Bush. The segment also included encouraging messages from children across the nation.

Marines had been told prior to arriving at NBC studios, that Pamela Anderson and the band, U2, were appearing that evening. However, when Anderson missed the show due to travel difficulties, a surprise visit from model and actress Alyssa Milano seemed to pacify the group of service members.

“I was so nervous that you would be upset that I am not Pam Anderson,” Milano told the audience.

The 28-year-old actress – apparently overcome by patriotism– began to cry. “I am just so honored to be here with you guys,” said Milano.

When Leno asked if she had to choose between a date with a Soldier, Sailor, Air-



San Diego Marines pose for a photo with Jay Leno, The Tonight Show host. The Marines were on hand for a special Thanksgiving edition of The Tonight Show. Photo by 1st Lt. Neil A. Ruggiero

men or Marine, Milano diplomatically stated she would have to try them all. This started a friendly game of “which service is the best?”

Representatives from all five services went on stage and performed tasks ranging from assembling a G.I. Joe action figure, to testing bearing. During the bearing test, Milano tried to distract service members by kissing some of them on the cheek, whispering in their ears and other high jinks.

With only Air Force and Marines remaining, determining which service was truly best was a song ... the respective services’ song, that is. The Marines won hands down after a rousing rendition of the Marines’ Hymn.

“When they told us that would be the final event I knew I was going to win,” said Cpl. Brian Montague, a squad instructor stationed at the School of Infantry, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton. “All the other

services cheered for the Air Force and wanted her to win. I knew we were the smallest in number, but we are Marines and there was no way we were going to lose.”

The service members also enjoyed a performance by U2. The band took time off from their U.S. tour to do The Tonight Show when Leno told them who the audience would be.

See **Show**, page 10

The combination of high speed and alcohol made for a deadly mixture for the three of the four occupants of this car. The use of seat belts may have saved the lives of two of the three fatalities in this accident. The surest way to come out alive from an automobile accident is to wear a seatbelt, according to the National Safety Council. Photo by Cpl. C.A. Eriksen

Ad Space

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Keeping healthy during the holidays

Julie Carlson, Semper Fit coordinator, educates service members and family members on how to eat and shop healthy, Nov. 28, during one of the Commissary's Healthy Shopping Tours. Photo by Cpl. Mark P. Ledesma

Marine pins wings on Sailor

By Richard V. Folga

Aeromedical Safety Officer, MAG-16

Lieutenant Colonel R.W. "Pappy" Schmidt, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 462 "Heavy Haulers" commanding officer, pinned Naval Air crewman wings on the chest of Chief Petty Officer Dallas-Orr, Aeromedical Safety Corpsman (AMSC), Marine Aircraft Group 16, Nov. 9.

Marines who have made the commitment to earn their wings of gold, understand the pride, confidence, and respect which comes from wearing them.

For an AMSC who provides both aeromedical safety and medical aircrew support to a fleet squadron, it probably means a little more. The commanding officer of HMH-462 had the confidence in Dallas-Orr to give up "flight skins" for an aerial observer who would work for and deploy with the squadron full time. Schmidt realized that he was getting a good deal. He knows that the chief

will provide that extra bit of effort in support of his augment squadron. Dallas-Orr had an outstanding reputation as an night vision goggle instructor and as Naval Aerospace Physiology Training Program instructor.

Dallas-Orr completed Naval Air crewmen Candidate School April 1993. He began his training syllabus flights with HMH-462 October 2000.

Since beginning the program, he has accumulated more than 83 flight hours, 39.5 on NVGs.

In addition to completing flights to fulfill training and readiness requirements, Dallas-Orr introduced new flight gear, provided respirator instruction, and instructed in NVG focusing and preflight to new pilots and aircrew.

Following the formation, the Schmidt gathered the squadron around and told his Marines and Sailors how important Dallas-Orr was to him and to the rest of the squadrons at MAG-16.

Pledge of Allegiance

Taken from Sen. John McCain's speech at the 1988 Republican National Convention

... Let me tell you what I think about our Pledge of Allegiance, our flag, and our country. I want to tell you a story about when I was a prisoner of war. I spent 5 1/2 years at the Hanoi Hilton. In the early years of our imprisonment, the North Vietnamese kept us in solitary confinement or two or three to a cell.

In 1971, the North Vietnamese moved us from these conditions of isolation into large rooms with as many as 30 to 40 men to a room. This was, as you can imagine, a wonderful change. And was a direct result of the efforts of millions of Americans ... on behalf of a few hundred POW's, 10,000 miles from home.

One of the men who moved into my cell was Mike Christian. Mike came from Selma, Alabama. He didn't wear a pair of shoes until he was 13 years old.

At 17, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He later earned a commission. He became a Naval flying officer, and was shot down and captured in 1967.

Mike had a keen and deep appreciation for the opportunities this country – and our military – provide for people who want to work and want to succeed.

The uniforms that we wore in prison consisted of a blue short-sleeved shirt, trousers that looked like pajama trousers and rubber sandals that were made out of automobile tires. I recommend them highly; one pair lasted my entire stay.

As part of the change in treatment, the Vietnamese allowed some prisoners to receive packages from home. In some of these packages were handkerchiefs, scarves and other items of clothing.

Mike got himself a piece of white cloth and a piece of red cloth and fashioned himself a bamboo needle. Over a period of a couple of months, he sewed the American flag on the inside of his shirt.

Every afternoon, before we had a bowl of soup, we would hang Mike's shirt on the wall of our cell, and say the Pledge of Allegiance.

I know that saying the Pledge of Allegiance may not seem the most important or meaningful part of our day now. But I can assure you that – for those men in that stark prison cell – it was indeed the most important and meaningful event of our day.

One day, the Vietnamese searched our cell and discovered Mike's shirt with the flag sewn inside, and removed it.

That evening they returned, opened the door of the cell, called for Mike Christian to come out, closed the door of the cell, and for the benefit of all of us, beat Mike Christian severely for the next couple of hours. Then they opened the door of the cell and threw him back inside.

He was not in good shape. We tried to comfort and take care of him as well as we could. The cell in which we lived had a concrete slab in the middle on which we slept. Four naked light bulbs hung in each corner of the room.

After things quieted down, I went to lie down to go to sleep. As I did, I happened to look in the corner of the room.

Sitting there beneath that dim light bulb

Mir Remarks

How do you increase your situational awareness?



"By using operational risk management and filling out a holiday accident reduction program form."

Cpl. Abraham C. Bueno
VMFA(AW)-121
administrative clerk



"Keeping up with current events via CNN, getting the word from SNCOs and passing it along to junior troops, and keeping aware of surroundings."

Sgt. Angel G. Amador
MALS-11
powerplant mechanic



"Be aware of my surroundings, know where I'm going and have a plan to get there."

Cpl. Mark J. McManus
MALS-16
powerplant mechanic

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MCLB Albany Marines: get to know the ropes

By Lance Cpl. Phuong Chau

CPAO, MCLB Albany

MARINE CORPS LOGISTIS BASE ALBANY, GA — A CH-46 Sea Knight crashes and lands on the side of a cliff in the mountains of Afghanistan. The crew is alive, but badly injured and cannot be reached by anyone below. Only one Marine squad is close enough to save the crew’s lives.

With no more than a single rope, one-by-one Marines rappel down to crew members in time to perform life-saving procedures until the injured can be transported to a safe location.

Eighty Marines rappelled from a 50-foot fire tower here Nov. 19 in an exercise intended to give them related training, said Sgt. Derrick Edwards, computer support technician.

Edwards, who set the training up for the Marines, stressed the importance of staying up-to-date with training. During combat, Marines may have to rappel from the tops of buildings to save a comrade’s life or to elude or engage the en-

emy.

“I think it is good that we can come together for some hardcore training,” said Sgt. Randolph Pierce, communications center operator.

“This is going to help a lot of people, including myself,” said Pierce, who was apprehensive about rappelling from the tower.

Lance Cpl. Eric Bruscell, computer repairman, was among several Marines who faced and overcame their fear of heights.

“I don’t have an option whether to go or not,” said Bruscell. “For combat purposes, this is important.”

“It was exhilarating,” said Sgt. Joseph Schneider, MCLB Albany communications center technician, who was among those who enjoyed the adrenaline rush.

Training exercises such as rappelling give Marines an idea of what they can expect in combat, said Schneider, who felt that more training in this area is needed.

The MCLB Fire and Emergency Department provided support for the training exercise.



Lance Cpl. Timothy V. Mantell, keyboard operator, rappels down the 50-foot tower during a training exercise Nov. 19. Photo by Lance Cpl. Phuong Chau

McCain,

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with a piece of white cloth, a piece of red cloth, another shirt and his bamboo needle, was my friend Mike Christian. Sitting there – with his eyes almost shut from his beating – making another American flag.

He was not making that flag because it made Mike Christian feel better. He was making that flag because he knew how important it was for us to be able to pledge our allegiance to our flag and our country.

Duty, Honor, Country. We must never forget those thousands of Americans who, with their courage, with their sacrifice and with their lives, made those words live for all of us.



Turkey time ... Working time

Cpl. Achilles A. Patrick, a security augmentation force member and Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 16 aviation supply clerk, records vehicle and driver information of cars stopped for random checks at the East Gate during the holiday weekend. Security Augmentation Forces worked with the Provost Marshal's Office during the Thanksgiving holiday to maintain base security and safety. The added force protection measures that were implemented after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks created a need for additional manpower to help PMO with the day-to-day operations of base security. Photo by Cpl. C.A. Eriksen

Attention Married Marines

Married Marines may notice their pay is a little short next pay period. Due to Defense Finance Accounting Services systems difficulties, the entire premium for the family SGLI plan will be deducted from the Dec. 1 pay period. Officials at DFAS expect the problem to be corrected by the Dec. 15 pay period. For more information, contact Jacquie Jackson at (816) 926-5110.

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“Rock around the clock”



Staff Sgt. Ray Martinez, band leader and guitarist, plays the guitar in a concert at the Area 51 Enlisted Club Saturday. *Photo by Sgt. Mike Camacho*

By Sgt. Mike Camacho

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

After playing military ceremonial music day in and day out, some members of the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Band put down their instruments to strap on guitars and play some rock and roll.

Five members have created a stir at the Area 51 Enlisted Club on more than one occasion. All of the players in “Three Thumbs Up” are currently or have been members of the 3rd MAW Band.

To shift focus and receive appreciation for more liberal and progressive art, these five military band members formed a band that they felt would express their creativity.

“Don’t get us wrong, we love military ceremonies and music, but this is a different outlet for our creativity,” said Petty Officer 2nd Class Roy Brown, former Marine and 3rd MAW band member. “Let’s face it, performing in

front of an audience is why anyone plays music,” added the lead singer.

All of the members of “Three Thumbs Up” love music and admit that playing rock and roll makes them feel great.

The band plays songs of all genres of rock, from new rock/alternative bands like “Linkin Park,” to a little older ones like “Kiss.”

“I truly just love reactions from my audience,” said Staff Sgt. Ray Martinez, band leader and guitarist. “It could be a veteran dropping a tear when we play the ‘Marines Hymn,’ or people dancing; but it’s a great feeling.”

The band won 2nd place in the Area 51 talent show last August, and have played in Canada, Arizona, Northern California and the Middle East.

“Three Thumbs Up” invites all to attend their next performance at the Area 51 Enlisted Club Dec. 15 at 9 p.m.

For more information call Staff Sgt. Ray Martinez at 577-8301.



Five members of the 3rd MAW Band rock the Area 51 Enlisted Club in a different display of musical talent. Saturday night was the band’s second appearance at Area 51 after winning 2nd place in a talent show. *Photo by Sgt. Mike Camacho*

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Miramar squeaks past TSB 13 -10

Station brings home 1st championship

By William Wassersug

MCB Camp Pendleton, Sports Editor

MCB CAMP PENDLETON — Quarterback Odis Alexander engineered his second straight All-Base football title Monday — this time serving as field general for the same team he vanquished a year ago.

Alexander completed 10 of 14 passes for 106 yards and two touchdowns as Miramar overcame six fumbles and its defense shackled 1st Transportation Support Battalion's explosive offense in a 13 -10 win here.

The Jaguars' defense compensated for its offense's butter fingers with five quarterback sacks and two key interceptions in Jaguar territory.

For the first time since anyone can remember — if ever — the All-Base trophy doesn't reside at Camp Pendleton.

Last year, Alexander helped lead Headquarters and Support Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, to an upset victory over Miramar in the title game.

While Alexander already had a championship, most of his teammates and Coach Richard Mohney were making sure the favored Jaguars didn't suffer the same fate as last year.

"The fact that we had such a letdown last year was on our mind," Mohney said.

"We were undefeated going into the championship game, and then it all crumbled. When we started fumbling, I reminded everyone about last year. We had to play focused for four quarters and not have a let-down."

Fortunately for the Jaguars, they lost only two of the six fumbles and still managed to rush for 133 yards.

Darrell Gunter, who carried the ball for years as a Camp Pendleton Marine, picked up 83 yards on 18 carries to lead the rushing attack.

Gunter fumbled four times, losing two, and recovered a fumble.

"I was excited," Gunter said. "The adrenaline was going. My hands felt wet the whole game. I just couldn't hold onto the ball. I don't know how that happened. I haven't fumbled all season."

The fumbles were inconsequential because Miramar's stingy defense wouldn't let TSB capitalize.

Miramar constantly threw between three and five rushers at quarterback Mitch Webb, and Webb couldn't find a groove.

"They brought a lot of pressure on me. It seemed like their whole defensive line was coming at us on every play."

Mitch Webb TSB quarterback

Webb — who threw for three touchdowns and ran for two others in leading TSB to blowout wins in the past two playoff games — finished 5-for-20 for 33 yards with two interceptions and no touchdowns.

He added 30 yards on a pair of pass interference calls. Three of Webb's five completions came in the fourth quarter when TSB tried to rally.

Webb also rushed for 51 yards to lead TSB, which rushed for 110 yards as a team.

TSB took an early lead when it drove 23 yards in four plays to set up Mike Piazza's 45-yard field goal.

TSB quickly had a chance to extend its lead when Gunter fumbled at the Miramar 35.

The drive stalled, however, when William Reese intercepted Webb at the 19.

"Our defense was pretty tough," Reese said. "Everyone put pressure on the quarterback. Our ends were coming in and putting pressure on. That forced the quarterback to come in. Then the inside linebackers put more pressure on and he had to scamper or get rid of the ball. Then we capitalized on his mistakes."

Miramar got on the board two possessions later, driving 56 yards in 10 plays, capped by a 20-yard strike down the middle from Alexander to Christopher Isadore. Kevin Mercier's extra-point kick gave Miramar a 7-3 lead.

Gunter led the scoring drive with 21 yards on four carries. Jeremiah Budnovich caught a 15-yard pass on a second-and-34 play from the 35 to set up Isadore's catch.

Miramar took the four-point lead into the half and extended it early in the third quarter with a quick-strike touchdown that covered 63 yards in two plays — a pair of passes from Alexander to Budnovich, including a short pass across the middle that Budnovich turned into a 20-yard score after he spun off a tackle and turned upfield.

That made it 13-3.

TSB made a bid to get back in the game when Webb keyed a 63-yard drive with a 13-

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Anthony Grace, 1st TSB running back, fumbles the football in the 3rd quarter of Miramar's 13-10 victory for the championship trophy. Miramar's Walker Scott recovered the ball on TSB's 42-yard line. Photo John Raifsnider

We're looking for a few good Marines

Devil Dogs needed as court reporters

By Sgt. W. A. Napper

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Agile fingers move nimbly across small levers on an unassuming, black, rectangular box inside the courtroom. As the prosecuting attorney demands for the truth from the witness, a Marine sits quietly, typing every spoken word on the funny, unmarked keyboard in a language that few understand.

Like the prosecutor, defense attorney and judge, the Marine is steadfastly performing their job as close to perfection as possible.

Sergeant Martisa Brown, Combat Service Support Detachment 14 court reporter, is one of the Marine Corps' few, and certainly proud, court reporters. The 28-year-old, Detroit native shares her military occupational specialty with only 38 other Marines in the Corps.

There's a shortage of Marines with her unique skill – but that's because the only way to become a court reporter is to lateral move into the MOS.

"Basically our job is to write down everything being said in the courtroom," said Brown. "Because of the nature of our job, we have to possess excellent English and grammar skills, and work well under limited supervision."

Court reporters are able to capture nearly everything said in a courtroom because they don't type the way average people do.

They are taught to spell words phonetically and type them into a device called a stenotype.

This "machine shorthand" is recorded on a floppy disk and after the recording is finished, court reporter Marines use a special type of program on their computers to translate the phonetic words into "normal" English transcript.

"We have to work quickly and under pressure because everyone's looking at you for that transcript," she said.

Only corporals or sergeants can volunteer to be a court reporter due to the strict requirements. The Marines must be a United States citizen, high school graduate, be able to type a minimum of 60 words per minute, have enough time left on their contract to fulfill a four-year, obligated-service requirement and have been on active duty for not less than 36 months. Marines must also be mature enough to handle attending the Virginia School of Technology at Virginia Beach, Va., for two years.

Brown also said court reporters use their craft not only during courts martial, but Article 32 investigations, boards of



Sergeant Martisa Brown, CSSD-14 court reporter, types every spoken word inside the courtroom here. The Marine Corps is in need of court reporters, and each year corporals and sergeants are requested to lat-move into the MOS. Currently there are only 38 court reporters in the Corps, and Brown said next year there will be even less. Photo by Sgt. W. A. Napper

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yard pass to Lee “Milky Way” Grant that put the ball in Miramar territory.

Webb followed by connecting on two more passes before Grant was aided by a pass interference penalty that put the ball at the 12.

Next, Webb picked up 10 yards on a keeper.

After a false-start penalty brought the ball back to the 6, Grant made it 13-9 by beating the defense to the corner on a 6-yard touch-down run.

Piazza’s kick made it 13-10 with 6:01 left in the game.

“I already knew what I was going to do,” Grant said about his touchdown. “I told the fullback to pick up the defensive end and I’d get it.”

TSB couldn’t finish the comeback despite getting help from Miramar.

With 4:14 left in the game, TSB’s David Dube recovered Gunter’s fourth fumble at the Miramar 30.

A pass got the ball to the 20, but on the next play, Webb was pressured by Reese and Edward Anderson. Rather than take the sack near the 40, Webb threw the ball downfield.

Miramar’s Floyd Elam came up with the interception at the 17.

Mohney had praise for Anderson’s defensive play.

“If you’re looking for a defensive player of the year, it’s Anderson,” he said. “Nobody can beat him. He’s tough.”

TSB helped Miramar later when it went offsides on a Miramar punt. The penalty gave Miramar a first down and kept TSB’s offense off the field the rest of the game.

TSB coach Don Robbins said his team should have performed better.

“Our offense didn’t come out clicking, and they (Miramar) came out here to play,” Robbins said. “We really beat ourselves, they didn’t beat us. We had a couple of interceptions and lost a few fumbles. We just weren’t in sync — not like our last game.

“We had a couple of opportunities at the end to score and we just didn’t get it done. They are a good team, and they got a few more breaks than we did.”

Alexander was jubilant after the game.

“I got my second one,” he said with a big

smile. “I felt good today, real good. I felt confident throwing to my receivers and my tight ends. It feels good.”

Alexander, who was partly responsible for one of Gunter’s fumbles — a botched handoff —couldn’t say why Miramar had trouble holding the ball.

“I don’t know,” he said. “I guess we had championship jitters. We had to get over the jitters and execute. We finally got the ball in.”

Carnell Martin, a nine-year veteran of Camp Pendleton football, was named Tournament MVP by Mohney after the game.

“He’s been in the league since 1992,” Mohney explained to both teams as he announced the selection. “He’s been one of the outstanding players here. This is for his outstanding play and a going-away present.”

Miramar and TSB will both be in action Saturday in the Best of the West tournament at Twentynine Palms.

Miramar is scheduled to play BaseComm at 9 a.m. TSB will duel Twentynine Palms at 11 a.m.

OPSEC

Loose lips
sink ships

Flight Jacket

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